

However, to actually try to use other forms of communication as a basis for denying LPFM is alarmingly wrong-headed, and directs the agency along the negative path of a creating policy based on limiting, rather than fostering, communication. It seems apparent that any kind of communications commission instituted by a democratic society ought to be involved in furthering communication, and not playing various forms of media against each other in the effort to circumscribe it. The Commissioner's perspective is ominous in light of cherished democratic principles, and needs to be confronted as such."

He goes on to claim that because of competition, the value of broadcasting "*is less and less powerful*," anyway. In other words, the grapes he holds outside of our reach are sour anyway. Of course if this is as true as he suggests, we might expect the corporate broadcasters would be standing in line to turn in their licenses for their very expensive and "*less and less powerful*" stations. It is very hard to square the perception the Commissioner tries to create here with the reality of unprecedented consolidation and speculation gripping the broadcast industry!

As far as "*administrative drains*," the community radio stations, along the same lines as is happening with public access, want to police themselves. Local broadcasting enthusiasts are best suited for settling local disputes. The agency's role should be to serve as the forum of last resort in settling disputes.

Although Congress may have determined that broadcast industry consolidation is good for America, Congress failed to assess whether that position squares with the seat of its own governing authority, namely the American public, which was largely and justifiably outraged upon learning what was exactly in the 1996 Telecom Act. Thus, the Act, drafted and passed in virtual secrecy, rests on an illegitimate foundation. The Commissioner wrings his hands and sighs that Congress forces the F.C.C. and that there is nothing he can do. In truth, it is apparent from other statements he really has no objection to consolidation anyway, regardless of the effect it has in silencing more and more American voices.

Finally, one might attempt to reckon the arrogance of anyone who, hearing thousands and thousands public voices united in support of community radio and not a whisper in opposition coming from the public itself, can still find that community radio is not in the public interest!

Respectfully submitted by,

Thomas Patrick Ness

Michigan Music is World Class Campaign

c/o Jam Rag Press

PO Box 20076, Ferndale MI 48220

248-542-8090

jamrag@glis.net



Supported By:

Rachael Adams

Prentiss Alter, 383 Lenox, Detroit MI 48215

Rob Carlson, 4223 23rd, Wyandotte MI 48192

Richard Demorest, Davis-Honner Mgmt, Amherst Alliance, Detroit Musicians Alliance, 7540 Corbett
Dr, Canton MI 48187

Maryjane Stlemach Honner, Davis-Honner Mgmt, Amherst Alliance (Regional Coordinator), Detroit
Musicians Alliance (past President), 7540 Corbett Dr, Canton MI 48187

Eugene Everett, 450 W Fort, Detroit MI 48236

Gil Garza, Harmony House, 13721 Eureka, Southgate MI 48195

Gemcraft Homes Inc., Julia A. Shaw, 59 Tanview, Oxford MI 48371

Paul George, 11326 Stonybrook, Grand Blanc MI 48439

Leah Habnitt, 2449 London Dr, Troy MI 48098

Daniel Hazlett, Home Street Music, 2377 Denby, Waterford MI 48329

Daniel Hunter, 12054 Buttercup Lane, Sterling Hts MI 48313-1521

Francis Johnstone, 632 Bondie, Lincoln Park MI 48146

Erik Kluiber, 251 E Saratoga, Ferndale MI 48220

Lori LaRowe, 3793 Alcott, W Bloomfield MI 48324

Greg Lowe, 25182 Dallas, Grosse Ile. MI 48138

John L Martin, 35735 Thornton Dr, Sterling Hts MI 48310

Ryan McNitt, 12813 Superior, Southgate MI 48195

Carla Meier, 2449 London Drive, Troy Michigan 48098

Michele More, 7281 Lamphere, Detroit MI 48239

Armand E. Nevers, 15860 Prest, Detroit MI 48227

Jane Nevers, 15860 Prest, Detroit MI 48227

Gloria Olvera, 15735 James, Southgate MI 48195

Isabel Olvera, Jam Rag Press, 15735 James Street, Southgate MI 48195

Pam Ortner, Clean Air Please, 28752 Tawas Ct, Madison Hts MI 48071

Paico Electronics, Eureka, MI 48184

Jeff Richter, 15900 Kristin Lane, Riverview MI 48192

Margaret Rinehart Prizer, Alliance For Democracy, Earth Day Every Day, Amnesty International,
BHEA, CWA, 17330 San Rosa, Southfield MI 48076

James Michael Shaw II, on-air personality, WXOU-FM, 59 Tanview Dr, Oxford MI 48371

Corey Storm, 14060 Borgman, Oak Park MI 48237

Harold Strom, 12800 Southern, Dearborn MI 48126

Shirley Strom, Alliance For Democracy, 19137 Starlane, Southfield MI 48075

Kristopher Trzecienski

Nick Vecchioni, canvasser, Clean Water Action, 5185 Lake George Rd, Metamora MI 48455

Derek Wagenschwanz, 64603 W 8 Mile Rd, South Lyon MI 48178

Daniel Wentworth, 51000 Mott Rd #181, Canton MI 48188

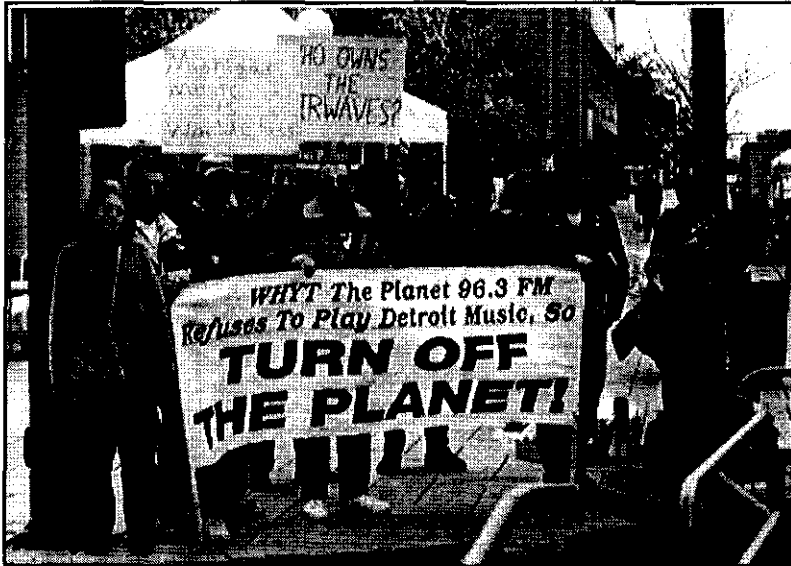


Our First Radio Rally, Dec.
28, 1996

MMWC Campaign
volunteers at national march
in Washington DC



1997 Town Meeting with
Senator Ken DeBeaussiaert,
Representative John
Freeman, etc.



Hey, they started it! The Planet was particularly hostile to the MMWC Campaign.

Marching with the locked-out newspaper workers.

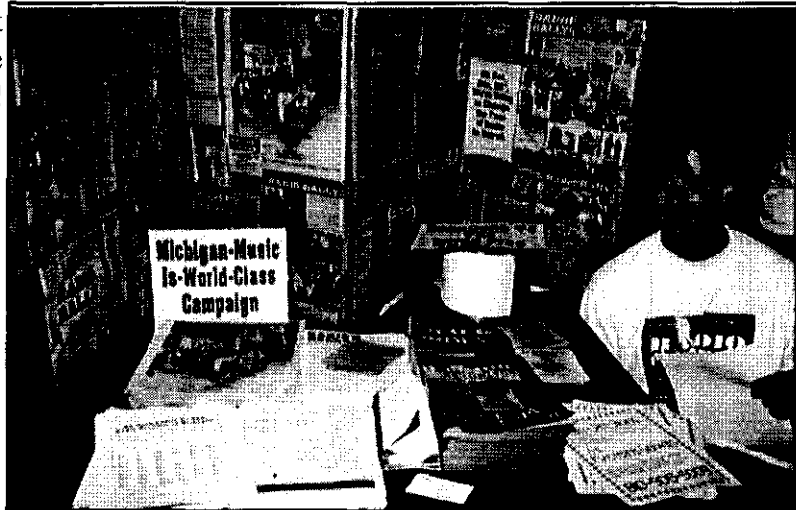


Conspiring to rule the word at our weekly meetings.

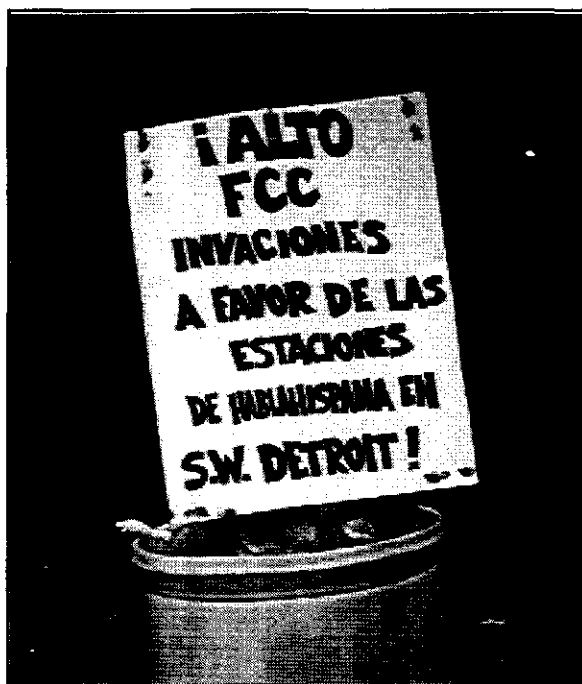


Three luminaries:
Congressman David Bonior
Susan Trescott-Ness (of the
MMWC, not the FCC!)
And Ronnie Dugger, founder
of the Alliance for
Democracy.

Manning the tables. Don't
come home without those
signatures, Jim!



Freezing outside of the
Federal Building. Stop the
raids on community radio
stations -- it's cold out here!



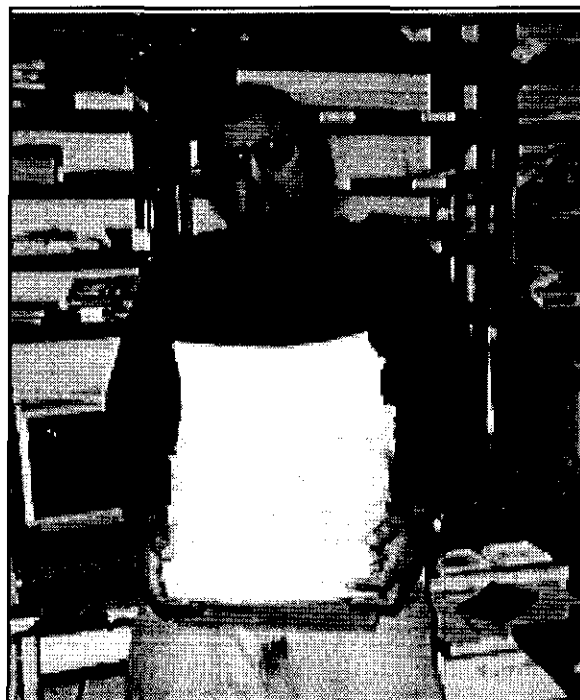
Rallying for a local hispanic community station.



Is this too much to ask?



Our first Radio Rendezvous.

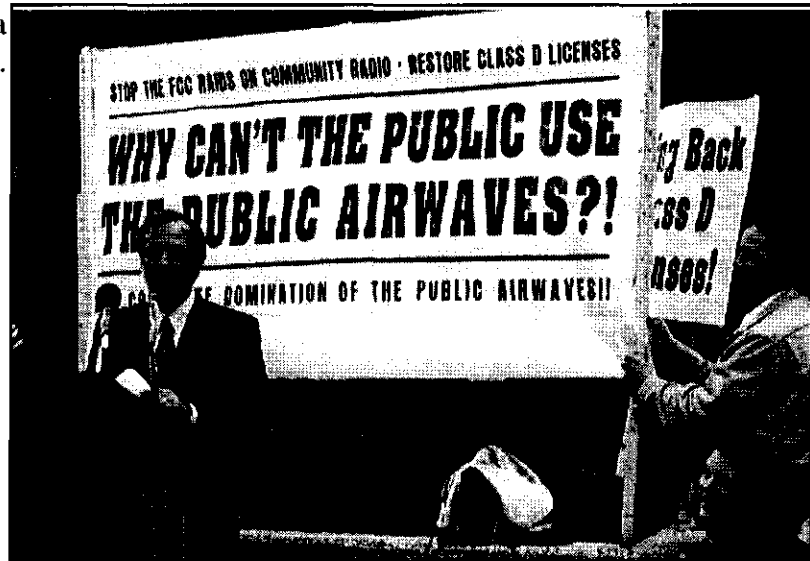


Our 3,200 constituent letters to Lansing urging resolutions in support of LPFM (Later increased to 4,000).



Outside F.C.C. headquarters
in Farmington

Congressman Bonior with a
simple question.



Airplay-A-Palooza.

CONG. BUDGET

1993 03 16

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 1999

The Honorable William E. Kennard
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

We are writing to commend the Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us — improving access to our airwaves for our local communities. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is taking action to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves at different levels, and that they are not locked out in a monopolistic, globalized fashion. It is as fundamental as free speech. Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well suited to cover community issues and local music. Unfortunately, today's radio is the most concentrated and formulaic medium in the country. Providing licenses to low power FM radio stations would create new opportunities for local voices to be heard in their communities.

Allowing low power FM radio stations on the air would empower local broadcasters to serve their communities with a variety of new voices and services. Low power radio stations would be able to address specific groups — including minority groups, the religious community, and linguistic minorities — and provide a forum for debate about important local issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win much attention from "mainstream," ratings-driven media.

The Honorable William E. Kennard
March 16, 1999
Page two

Further, they would provide an outlet for the diverse, local voices and musicians that are presently priced out of the market. These stations would also provide advertising options for local businesses and increased employment opportunities in these communities.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide support. The tremendous public demand for microradio is demonstrated by the proliferation of illegal radio stations, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses and, in some cases, imprisonment.

Again, we applaud the Commission's willingness to address this issue. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio service will soon become a reality. We look forward to working with you on making the airwaves more accessible to our local communities.

Sincerely,

David E. Babin *Rich 103: Bontor (Rev. 1.1)* *Sam*
Alan F. Haxby *Sharon Sutton* *Lucille Pryor-Alton*
James E. Cypher *Marcy Kaptur* *George E. Brown, Jr.*
Carlos Romero Baez *Jim Foley* *Mike D'Zur*
John Longenecker *Robert A. Underwood* *Patty T. Mink*

The Honorable William E. Kennard

March 16, 1999

Page three

Anna G. E. Shoo Robert W. Hays

Myself

Paula Jackson Albert R. W. Hays

Robert W. Hays

E. E. Lanning Jr. Schakowsky

Lynne R. Rivers

Ronnie Shoo Janet F. Repolletto Steve R. Hays

List of Cosigners
on the
Bonior Low Power Radio Letter
to
FCC Chairman Kennard

David E. Bonior (MI) —
Lincoln Diaz-Balart (FL) —
Rosa L. DeLauro (CT)
Alcee L. Hastings (FL) —
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL) —
Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA) —
James E. Clyburn (SC)
Marcy Kaptur (OH)
George E. Brown, Jr. (CA) —
Carlos A. Romero-Barcelo (PR)
Eni F.H. Faleomavaega (AS)
Peter DeFazio (OR)
John Conyers, Jr. (MI) —
Robert A. Underwood (GU)
Patsy T. Mink (HI)
Anna G. Eshoo (CA) —
Robert Wexler (FL) —
Max Sandlin (TX)
Shelia Jackson-Lee (TX)
Albert Russell Wynn (MD)
Chaka Fattah (PA)
Elijah E. Cummings (MD)
Janice D. Schakowsky (IL)
Lynn N. Rivers (MI) —
Ronnie Shows (MS)
Grace F. Napolitano (CA) —
Silvestre Reyes (TX)

27 total signatures.

THE SENATE
LANSING, MICHIGAN



March 8, 1999

Mr. William Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of:
Proposal for Creation of Low Power FM (LPFM) Broadcast Service
FCC RM-9242, the "Skinner" petition

Dear Mr. Kennard:

We, members of the Michigan State Senate, would like to take this opportunity to express our support for RM-9242 which would help to create a new service of small, locally owned FM stations.

As you know, twenty years ago, the Federal Communications Commission (F.C.C.) stopped issuing new "Class D" broadcasting licenses (stations of less than 100 watts). Today to launch a station the F.C.C. will consider licensing a minimum investment of \$80-100 thousand, making it too difficult for the general public to launch a radio station. A national grassroots movement has emerged to re-legalize community radio.

We believe allowing low power FM Radio will achieve several worthwhile goals; providing more choice to the public, diversity of ownership, increased local presence in the media and a better reflection of the character and needs of the community.

Therefore, we support RM-9242 and hope that you will consider adopting this rule on behalf of local musicians, community groups and individual citizens throughout the State of Michigan and the country.

Respectfully,

Ken D...
Joe Young, Jr.
Gertha...
Raymond...
Mark...

W...
John...
Larry...
Alma...
Phil...
...

THE SENATE
LANSING, MICHIGAN

JOANNE G. EMMONS
23RD DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 30036
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909 7536
PHONE (517) 373 3169
TELE (517) 373 0543
FAX (517) 373 8661

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES:
FINANCE, CHAIR
EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

March 24, 1999

Mr. William Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of:
Proposal for Creation of Low Power FM (LPFM) Broadcast Service
FCC RM-9242, the "Skinner" petition

Dear Mr. Kennard:

We, members of the Michigan State Senate, would like to take this opportunity to express our support for RM-9242 which would help to create a new service of small, locally owned FM stations.

As you know, twenty years ago, the Federal Communications Commission (F.C.C.) stopped issuing new "Class D" broadcasting licenses (stations of less than 100 watts). Today to launch a station the F.C.C. will consider licensing a minimum investment of \$80-100 thousand, making it too difficult for the general public to launch a radio station. A national grassroots movement has emerged to re-legalize community radio.

We believe allowing low power FM Radio will achieve several worthwhile goals; providing more choice to the public, diversity of ownership, increased local presence in the media and a better reflection of the character and needs of the community.

Therefore, we support RM-9242 and hope that you will consider adopting this rule on behalf of local musicians, community groups and individual citizens throughout the State of Michigan and the country.

Respectfully

Joanne G. Emmens,
State Senator, 23rd District

cc: Jam Rag Press





MICHIGAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
P.O. Box 30014
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7514

April 13, 1999

The Honorable William E. Kennard
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

In re: RM9242

Dear Chairman Kennard:

We are writing in support of the Commission's proposed rules to license new low power FM radio stations, which would improve airwave access in local communities.

As the rate of consolidation of radio broadcast markets has increased, fewer and fewer local stations exist with close connections to communities and neighborhoods. This has resulted in a less diverse media market. Licenses for low power FM radio stations would allow more local groups -- minorities, the religious and educational communities, and non-"mainstream" voices -- to be heard in urban as well as rural markets.

The public airwaves could better serve the public by having a wider assortment of local forums for both listeners and market owners. Allowing LPFM stations could increase local presence and provide more choices to the public, better reflecting the character of the communities they serve.

We urge you to restore approval for low power FM radio broadcasting as a relatively affordable, more community-based service to include regional issues and local music more effectively in the radio markets.

Sincerely,

Paul Gieghem
State Representative
31st District

Patricia Godchaux
State Representative
40th District

Belda Garza

Belda Garza
State Representative
8th District

Ruth Ann Jamnick

Ruth Ann Jamnick
State Representative
54th District

Ray Basham

Ray Basham
State Representative
22nd District

David T. Woodward

David T. Woodward
State Representative
34th District

John P. Hansen

John P. Hansen
State Representative
52nd District

Robert M. Gosselin

Robert M. Gosselin
State Representative
42nd District

Mike Kowall

Mike Kowall
State Representative
44th District

Liz Brater

Liz Brater
State Representative
53rd District

Rose Bogardus

Rose Bogardus
State Representative
47th District

Thomas H. Kelly

Thomas H. Kelly
State Representative
17th District

Michael Switalski

Michael Switalski
State Representative
27th District

Mike Dennis

Mike Dennis
State Representative
92nd District

Gilda Z. Jacobs

Gilda Z. Jacobs
State Representative
35th District

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JOHN ENGLER
GOVERNOR

March 9, 1998

Mr. Tom Ness
Jam Rag
Post Office Box 20076
Ferndale, Michigan 48220

Dear Tom Ness:

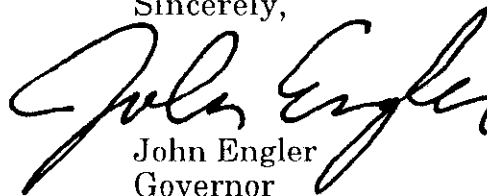
Thank you for taking the time to contact my office regarding our local musicians in the Great Lakes State.

Your concern for the future of locally produced music and your intention to help build our local music economy is admirable. Michigan has long been known for its contributions to the music world. From Motown to Iggy Pop to Bob Seger, this state has provided a plethora of talent and new sounds which have influenced the evolution of our popular music culture. To help perpetuate this rich musical tradition is certainly a worthwhile endeavor. I would like to salute and encourage you in your efforts to help provide a forum for the musicians of our state.

It should be important, not just for local musicians, but for every citizen to support the artists who enrich our lives by enriching our culture. I would urge all concerned citizens to actively encourage our local artists both through their patronage and public support. I hope your magazine will continue to support Michigan's local musicians and use your voice to promote the fine talent that this state has to offer.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to my attention and for all of the work you are doing on behalf of our local musicians.

Sincerely,



John Engler
Governor

JE/jc

One Hundred Fifth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Office of the Democratic Whip

May 7, 1998

The Honorable William E. Kennard
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am writing to ask you for your help and guidance on an issue of great importance to me -- improving access to our airwaves for our local communities. I am especially concerned about the growing concentration of the media in this country and would like a chance to discuss with you the prospects of freeing up our radio airwaves.

As you know, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) eliminated "Class D" licenses, or those under 100 watts, for small, community radio stations. Since Class D licenses are unavailable, creative talent at the local level has little access to our airwaves. One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves at different levels, and that they are not locked out in a monopolistic, globalized fashion. It is as fundamental as the right of free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well suited to cover community issues and local music. Unfortunately, today's radio is the most concentrated and formulaic medium in the country. In fact, commercial stations in the Detroit metro area devote far less than one percent of their air time to local, independent music.

Because of the criteria established by your agency, it is now estimated that an investment of \$80-100 thousand dollars is needed before the FCC will even consider granting a broadcasting license. That is particularly troubling in an era when more and more of our media outlets are owned by fewer and fewer mega-corporations. Our nation's airwaves are dominated by six media multinationals which continue to consolidate their control of the market nearly every day. I do not believe our airwaves should be reserved only for wealthy media moguls.

I understand you have indicated a willingness to consider relicensing one-watt stations for community access. This would be a small step in the right direction. I would like to discuss with you further the possibility of increasing opportunities for citizens to use our airwaves and would like to schedule a meeting with you in the near future.

Thank you again for your willingness to address this issue. I look forward to working with you on ways to help make our airwaves more accessible to our local communities.

Sincerely,



David E. Bonior
Democratic Whip

DAVID E. BONIOR
5801 Oakwood Michigan

MINORITY WHIP

WASHINGTON OFFICE
7201 Rayburn Office Building
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2210
Tel.: (202) 225-2108

**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2210**

HOME OFFICES:
59 N. WALNUT
SUITE 305
MT. CLEMENS, MI 48043-5677
TEL.: (810) 469-1232
526 WATER STREET
PORT HURON, MI 48060-5492
TEL.: (810) 987-8889
TTY: (202) 225-2275

July 22, 1998

The Honorable William E. Kennard
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of:

Proposal for Creation of the Low Power FM (LPFM) Broadcast Service
FCC RM-9242, the "Skinner" petition

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am writing as part of the reply comment period for FCC RM-9242. Please make these comments part of the official record.

I support the "Skinner" petition because I believe it can improve access to our airwaves for local communities without interfering with existing service. I am deeply concerned about the growing concentration of the media in this country and believe, that as we see tremendous consolidation within the industry, many voices and viewpoints are being priced out of the market.

With the elimination of "Class D" licenses, or those under 100 watts for small, community radio stations, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) began the process of silencing community voices. Since the passage of the 1996 telecommunications bill, it is clear that more and more of our radio stations are being gobbled up by a small group of owners who have little connection or desire to serve local public interest. Communities are losing their identity and local voice, as owners who live hundreds of miles away deprive them of local on-air personalities and programming and replace them with cookie-cutter formats taped in far off studios.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse and minority interests have opportunities to express themselves at different levels, and that they are not locked out in a monopolistic, globalized fashion. It is as fundamental as the right of free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most suitable of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well suited to cover community issues and local music. Unfortunately, today's radio is the most concentrated and formulaic medium in the country. In fact, commercial stations in the Detroit metro area devote far less than one percent of their air time to local, independent music.

The Honorable William E. Kennard
FCC RM-9242
July 22, 1998
Page two

Because of market concentration and difficult FCC licensing criteria, it is now estimated that an investment of \$80,000 to \$100,000 is needed before the FCC will even consider granting a broadcasting license. I believe this process must not freeze out community, locally-owned and operated radio. In the public airwaves, surely we can carve out a piece of the broadcasting spectrum for community-level Low Power FM (LPFM) radio stations as the "Skinner" petition proposes. Further, I believe this petition would fulfill the FCC's mandate to "serve the public interest, necessity and convenience." I support this petition and believe we owe the public some access to the airwaves they own. I hope the FCC will consider RM-9242 favorably.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David E. Bonior". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "B".

David E. Bonior
Democratic Whip

FRANK B. LUTHER, VIRGINIA, CHAIRMAN

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TED STRICKLAND, OHIO
DIANA DEGETTE, COLORADO
THOMAS M. BARRETT, WISCONSIN
BILL LUTHER, MINNESOTA
LOIS CAPES, CALIFORNIA

JAMES E. DERDERIAN, CHIEF OF STAFF

**U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Commerce**

**Room 2125, Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6115**

May 18, 1999

Mr. Tom Ness
Jam Rag Press
Box 20076
Ferndale, Michigan 48220

Dear Mr. Ness:

Thank you for your letter regarding low-power radio broadcasting. I appreciated hearing from you.

I commend your efforts in Michigan, and I am pleased to note that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) launched a rulemaking on January 28, 1999, that is intended to provide greater opportunities for community-oriented broadcasters. I support the FCC's efforts, provided that existing licensees are protected from interference. The rules are expected to lead to the creation of several hundred medium- and low-power FM broadcast stations.

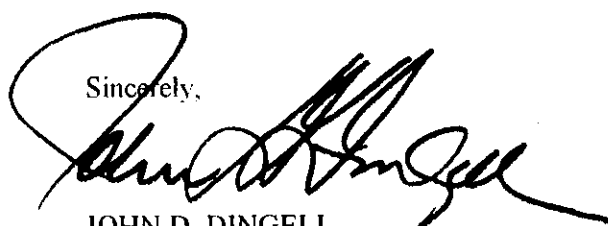
I, too, support a robust local market for radio and television broadcasting. During the debates surrounding passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, I argued strenuously against further concentration of radio broadcast ownership at the local level. Unfortunately, the Congress succeeded in completely removing the national ownership caps and significantly expanding the local station limits for individual radio broadcasters.

As a result, the country has experienced an unprecedented degree of ownership concentration of radio stations. This concentration is leading both to higher advertising rates and an increasing bias toward national programming. I continue to believe that neither result is in the public interest.

I agree with the concerns you have raised and will continue to support the protection of programming diversity at the local level. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,



JOHN D. DINGELL
RANKING MEMBER



Senator Christopher D. Dingell

Dear Mr. Frost & Ms. Flynn

I would be glad to
support a resolution urging
the FCC to re-legalize
community radio

Chris Dingell

THE SENATE
LANSING, MICHIGAN



GEORGE Z. HART

6TH DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 30036

LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7536

517/ 373-6820

FAX: 517/ 373-3101

TDD: 517/ 373-0543

SENATE COMMITTEES:
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
LOCAL, URBAN AND STATE AFFAIRS
TRANSPORTATION AND TOURISM

December 11, 1998

Mr. Eric A. Harabodian
Jam Rag
P.O. Box 20076
Ferndale, MI 48220

Dear Mr. Harabodian:

Thank you for contacting my office regarding the relegalization of community radio. I am always willing to address the concerns of my constituents regarding such important issues.

I have reviewed the information enclosed with your letter regarding RM-9242, a formal rule-making petition which I understand would create a service of small, locally-owned radio stations if adopted by the Federal Communications Commission.

Because this is primarily a federal issue, as you know, I have forwarded a copy of your letter to Congressman John Dingell's district office. I do, however, see merit in the "Michigan is a World Class" Campaign, and I would vote in favor of a non-binding resolution if introduced by the Michigan Legislature. In support of this grass-roots effort, I have signed the enclosed petition letter and included it with this response.

I appreciate your bringing this issue to my attention; I will certainly keep your interests in mind when the Legislature reconvenes in January. You are a vital part of the legislative process, and I encourage you to continue to provide your elected representatives with input on matters of concern to yourself and your community.

Sincerely,

George Z. Hart
State Senator

Enclosure